



Incineration of Animal Mortality

Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL 769



Definition

Incineration of animal mortalities is a suitable means of on-farm animal disposal. Incinerators are used to dispose of mortalities from poultry, swine, and other small animal operations.

General Information

Incinerators utilize an energy source such as propane gas, LP gas, or diesel fuel along with forced air in a combustion chamber(s) to reduce animal mortalities to ashes. When properly operated, incinerators prevent the emission of objectionable odors and excessive amounts of particulate matter.

Incinerators, or the modification of incinerators, for animal mortality disposal must be registered with the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) prior to installation and operation. Only Type 4 incinerators from ADEM's approved list can be used for animal mortality disposal.

An experienced technician can determine the size and number of incinerators needed for an animal operation.

Electrical and gas hook-ups for incinerators are to meet all codes and must be certified by a qualified technician.

Facilities utilizing diesel fuel for incineration should have a Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasures (SPCC) plan developed. Tanks in excess of 660 gallons or multiple tanks with a cumulative storage capacity of more than 1320 gallons will need secondary containment for potential spills or leakage.

Incinerators are to be located:

- at least 50 ft. from any surface water course,
- at least 100 ft. from any well or water source,
- at least 20 ft. from any building, and
- on a concrete slab.

Although not required, a non-combustible roof over the incinerator will extend its useful life.

Operation and Maintenance

Incinerators are designed to only handle normal mortality for an animal operation. Heavy mortality near the end of a grow-out cycle may require loading the incinerator more than once a day. Some operations will require the use of more than one incinerator. Mass die-off of animals will need to be handled with emergency procedures (see Guide Sheet AL 317B, Emergency Disposal of Dead Animals).

The ash produced from the incineration should be evenly distributed according to the nutrient content of the ash on pasture or hayland where the grass is actively growing in accordance with Conservation Practice Standard, Code 590 - Nutrient Management.

References

NRCS AL Conservation Practice Standard

Code - 769, Incinerator

AL NRCS Guide Sheets

AL 317B, Emergency Disposal of Dead Animals

AL 590, Application Distances for Applying Animal Manure and Organic By-Products

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